WITK

The Spark Gap

NOVEMBER 1982

Vol VII Book XI

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

CONVENTION !

NEW ENGLAND CONVENTION

The 1982 New England Division ARRL Convention was held on October 2 and 3 at the Sheraton Boxboro. There was a large turnout perhaps approaching 5000 attendees, including a number from the Wellesley A.R.S.

With ideal weather both days of the convention, the outdoor flea market was well attended, including the table shared by several club members. A large selection of surplus items from the club basement was also brought along and the majority was sold, helping both the treasury and the space shortage in the basement. Individuals selling from the club table also did well, in fact most claimed that they made more than they spent over the weekend!

Indoors there were many interesting forums, as well as many dealers and manufacturers displaying their wares. All the dealers were offering discounts for those who came to buy, and several of the manufacturers were handing out "freebies" such as hats, maps, tee shirts, and so on.

Several club members were prize winners in the many drawings and contests held during the weekend. Mort Cohan, KA1IU, was the top finisher in the QSL card contest for his card with the ancient astronomers on it, with the astonomers holding what looks like a VHF antenna. We assume that Mort won a prize for this, but he hasn't heard what it is yet. David Curry, K1TK, won the big fox hunt as well as taking second place in one of the preliminary fox hunts. For his efforts, David was awarded a mobile speaker and a $50 dollar gift certificate which was immediately spent on a 220 MHz Boomer antenna for use in the VHF contests. Finally, your editor won one of the drawings held throughout the two days and came home with a pen with a clock in it as a prize.

A truly wonderful time was had by all attending, and if you missed it you should certainly plan on making the next one.

Dues Dues Dues...

With the start of the new club year, it is once again time to pay your club dues. Membership remains at $8.00 once again this year. To ensure your uninterrupted membership in the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society, please come to one of the November meetings to pay your dues or mail them to the club treasurer, C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, 48 Hale Street, Newton, Mass. 02164.

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:

November 4, 1982 at 7:30 p.m.
November 18, 1982 at 7:30 p.m.
Intermediate Bldg., Wellesley Hills, Mass.

"New Tickets"

The complete list of graduates from our Novice class is now in. Congratulations to Harry Kessinger of West Roxbury who is now KA1IJM, Dorothy Adamo of Watertown, KA1JHT, Chris Germano of Northboro, KA1JHU, Robert C. Hick of Wellesley, KA1JJU, Louie Marotta of Watertown, KA1JHS, and William E. Wyckoff, Jr. of Watertown, KA1JHZ. Welcome to the world of Amateur Radio and we hope you will be able to take an active part in your new hobby and in the Wellesley A.R.S. Thanks again to the class instructors, Art Thompson, KA1ENP, and Ken McNair, KA1ACX for their efforts in helping these people obtain their licenses.

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

Number 78, dated September 14, 1982:

President Reagan has signed into law important legislation affecting Amateur Radio. The signing of H.R. 3239, which incorporates the Amateur Rdio proivisions of the legislation known earlier as S. 929 and H.R. 5008, took place on September 13. Thus ends a long battle for Congressional support of ARRL legislative proposals in the fields of radio frequency interference, monitoring by volunteers, volunteer examination preparation and administration, and the lengthening of license terms.

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Number 86, dated September 27, 1982:

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations has approved Senate Treaty Document 97 21, recommending that the Senate advise and consent to ratification of the Radio Regulations and Final Protocol stemming from the World Administrative Radio Conference, WARC 79. It is uncertain whether the full Senate can consider the matter prior to recessing around October 1 for th general elections. If not, th measure should be adopted during the post election session which should convene around November 29 and adjourn just before Christmas.

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Number 89, dated October 11, 1982:

The new edition of the ARRL Net Directory is now available. Listing over 1000 public service nets by location and frequency, this newly revised booklet is also packed with information on all the basics of traffic handling and net operation. You may obtain a copy by sending a self addressed nine by twelve inch envelope with seventy one cents U.S. postage to ARRL Net Directory, 225 Main Street, Newington, Conn. 06111.

THE WESTLINK REPORT
THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER

Dr. Stephen J. Lukasik has submitted his resignation from the office of FCC Chief Scientist to re-enter private industry. Dr Lukasik has served in that positi for the past four years; his resignation was effective October 2. There has been no announcement yet of a successor.

Westlink Report, October 8, 1982

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:
David Curry, K1TK, 237-2450
VICE PRESIDENT:
Roger Smith, W1EOA, 235-6239
RECORDING SECRETARY:
Nels Anderson, K1UR, 323-5029
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:
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OPERATING ACTIVITIES:
Erik Thoresen, K1OGF, 653-1216

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

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THE "SPARK GAP" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, F.C.C. RULES & REGULATIONS CHANGES, AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SENT THEIR ARTICLES (TYPEWRITTEN IF POSSIBLE) TO THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OR TO THE CLUB ADDRESS.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS $8. THE CLUB YEAR RUNS SEPTEMBER 1 TO AUGUST 31. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS, OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE:

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
324 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181

Minutes

Meeting of October 7, 1982:

The meeting was opened at 7:33 p.m. by President David Curry, K1TK.

The Secretary's report was read.

The Treasurer's report was read, including a report of the flea market profits and profits from additional sales of excess property at the Boxboro convention flea market.

The Simulated Emergency Test, organized by Erik Thoresen, K1OGF, will be held October 16 at 10:00 a.m.

Erik has also started planning for the Natick Mall Message Fair. He is looking for more displays to attract potential Novices to our January Novice class.

The General Class which began the previous night has 13 students, including three from our Novice classes.

Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ, and David Curry, K1TK, have been looking into the club or a splinter group of the club sponsoring the New England Division convention next year since it appears that no one else is going to do it. More on this later.

K1TK will also be offering his services as a technical consultant at the club on non-meeting Thursdays for the next few weeks.

Bill Hanlon, N1ADY, suggested that the club look into becoming incorporated before we consider anything like running a convention. A motion was made and passed, and Bill volunteered to look into it.

The meeting was closed at 8:28 p.m.

THE WESTLINK REPORT
THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER

The FCC has approved PR Docket 81-699, which permits Amateurs the use of almost any form of computer codes above 50 MHz. At presstime, the exact text of the Report and Order was not available, but Commission sources said on the phone that there are some restrictions. It would be best to wait until the final wording is released before beginning to transmit any new computer language formats not already covered in Part 97

Westlink Report, September 24, 1982

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Two rulemaking requests were denied. A filing by William Tynan, W3XO, for allocation of the 902-928 MHz band to Amateur Service, was turned down based on the Senate's failure to ratify the 1979 WARC treaty; the Commissioners felt the request was "premature." Also dismissed was a request by Peter D. Wechter of New Canaan, Connecticut, which asked that specific callsigns be issued to Amateurs holding "General Class and above" licenses. Budgetary constraints were noted in this action.

Westlink Report, September 24, 1982

Auctions / Flea Markets

November 20: Honeywell Auction, 300 Concord Road, Billerica Mass. (at Concord Road exit off of Route 3). Doors open at 10:00 a.m. and the auction starts at 11:00 a.m. Free admission and parking. Sponsored by the Honeywell 1200 Radio Club and the Waltham A.R.A. Talk-in on 147.72/12 and 146.04/64.

ELECTRONICS EXCHANGE

For Sale: Robot 800H, with external tuning scope. Panasonic TR-930 9 inch video monitor, with plexiglass stand. Two Teletype printers with stands, 32 ASR (Baudot) and 33 ASR (ASCII). Both recently professionally overhauled. Metered 60 ma on-line loop supply; both have own local loop supply for off-line use. All in perfect condition. The lot $900. You pick up or ship. Contact Bob Woodbury, K1ZL, 12 Meadowbrook Road, Dover, Mass. 02030. 617-785-1423.

Flea Market

by Nels Anderson, K1UR

Our 1982 fall flea market was held Saturday, September 25 under sunny skies in the Wellesley High School parking lot, where we have been holding it for the past three years. Despite some slips in our advertising the turnout was pretty good and it was apparent that a lot of buying and selling was going on.

Despite our advertised 9:00 a.m. start we've had people show up as early as 7:00 or 7:30 in past years, so this year we made a point to be ready really early. And of course we had no real early birds this time. Still, by 9:00 the parking lot was showing a fair amount of activity and we were ready to handle anything.

W.A.R.S. club table.

Running the flea market is pretty easy, just involving catching people as they arrive and collecting a dollar from each. Having the same price for both sellers and buyers again seemed popular, with a very high percentage of the attendees bring something to sell which would not have been feasible for them with a higher sellers charge. The only real work involved for us was lugging some stuff from the club room down to try to unload it and we were reasonably successful in clearing out some big (physically!) items and picking up a few extra dollars over and above the admissions.

REPEATER

After the flea market was over and after a short stop at the Ground Round in Natick for some refreshments, a crew of workers proceeded up to the Newton-Wellesley Hospital for the annual post flea market repeater work party.

Since it now seems that it will still be some time before our tower goes up at the hospital, due to the

need to get a building permit, we decided to install the antenna we bought for the transmitter on the existing mast for the time being. The antenna is a commercial grade fiberglass vertical which should be an improvement over the existing Ringo Ranger. The Ringo has taken quite a beating in the past few years as guy lines, which were only meant to be temporary while awaiting the erection of the tower, have failed. The antenna had two fairly severe bends in it, which had been straightened to some extent, but still left a pretty sad looking antenna. The new antenna at least looks much better.

While up there we also decided to try the VHF contest amplifier on the transmitter for a while. It still doesn't seem to work properly on the repeater, so it would seem that more effort will be required before we can think about making this a permanent part of the repeater system.

Public Service

by Nels Anderson, K1UR

On Sunday, September 26, the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society provided communications for the Corporate Cup road race. This event is a five mile race in which different corporations enter teams which compete against one another. The race was held in downtown Boston, starting and ending at the Boston Common with the far point of the race in the Fenway.

Our operators, organized by Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ, manned checkpoints each mile along the course and provided leaders numbers and times to the public address announcer at the finish line. With our previous experience in similar events, we had no problem providing this service and everything went off flawlessly.

In addition to WA1ZLQ, other participants were David Curry, K1TK; Dave [illegible]t, N2AWG; Jon Kanter, AF1M; Bill [illegible]wning, WA1PQY; Kevin Kelly, WA1YHV; and Nels Anderson, K1UR.

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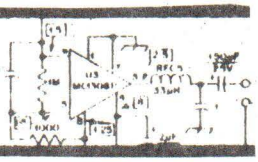
On Sunday, October 17, we once again provided communications for the Wellesley Veterans Parade. This year in addition to our communications responsibilities we helped prior to the start of the parade in the lining up of the marching units.

Although the parade did not start until 1:00 p.m. operators were on site starting at 11:00 a.m. for the preparations which is really when most of the work takes place. With over one hundred marching units, floats, antique cars and so on, getting everyone in place was quite a job. With a few exceptions, everyone was in place and the parade began right on time.

Once in progress, updates of units out of order were relayed to the reviewing stand located near the end of the route at the intersection of Routes 16 and 135. The names of the prize winning floats were also relayed, allowing the public address announcer to provide accurate information to the crowd.

The operation was once again organized by Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ, and other operators participating were C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM; Scott Nacey, WA1YOJ; Erik Thoresen, K1OGF; and Nels Anderson, K1UR.

Tek Tok



-from DARA Bulletin via ARNS

Using nail polish in the shack sounds silly but listen:

1. I use red nail polish to mark dials and points on cabinets for rotary switches.

2. Red for the "off" button or switch on all equipment so the YF and harmonics will know what to push if I leave something on when I am out.

3. I use red and white (other colors are available) to identify

mating male and female connectors as in the case of the leads on a stereo or tape deck, etc.

4. If you have a screw or nut that tends to work loose with vibration, a dab of polish under it will hold it solid.

5. Don't overlook nylon cord and rope; a little polish on the cut end stops the raveling.

6. Clear nail polish is ideal for waterproofing labels on equipment and electrical connections that tend to corrode.

THE WESTLINK REPORT
THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER

AMSAT's Phase III-B launch could be delayed another 30 to 60 days as a result of another Ariene launch failure on Friday, September 10. The European Space Agency's (ESA) Ariene L-5 was about 14 minutes into its post launch sequence after a liftoff from French Guiana when the malfunction of a gear in a pump caused a failure of the final stage rockets to ignite. The Ariene L-5 could not attain orbital velocity and plummeted back to earth, dumping its payload of ESA's first two commercial satellites into the South Atlantic. According to AMSAT's Vern Riportella, WA2LQQ, he and other AMSAT officials have been in direct contact with ESA and have been assured that the malfunction of L-5 is definitely an isolated mechanical failure that will be corrected on all future Ariene boosters, and that AMSAT's contractual agreement for the Phase III-B launch on Ariene L-7 is still intact.

Westlink Report, September 24, 1982

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AMSAT had observers present at the first launch of an American privately owned spacecraft. Named the "Conestoga I" by its company, Space Services Incorporated, the vehicle carried a mock payload of 400 lbs. of water aloft in its first sub-orbital mission. Conestoga I ws launched from Madagorda Island off the Gulf Coast of Texas and reached an altitude of 200 miles before falling into the Gult about 300 miles downrange. S.S.I officials report the launch an over whelming success, and say that private enterprise is now firmly established in the space business. Conestoga I cost the fifty investors $6 million to get off the ground.

Westlink Report, September 24, 1982

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A U.S. "woodpecker" May come to nest in the Pacific Northwest. According to the Tacoma News Tribute, McCord Air Force Baser near that city is under consideration to become part of one of the proposed American "over-the-horizon pulsed radar systems," which is capable of detecting enemy aircraft at a far greater distance than conventional radar. According to the article, McCord will not play host to the actual transmitters or receivers for the system, but may serve as the maintenance and operations center. If the proposed system is built, the transmitters will probably be located at sites in Christmas Valley, Oregon with receivers at or near Alturas California. It is unknown what effect this project will have on Amateur Radio, although in past proposals of such systems, the military has said it would work closely ith all interested and affected spectrum users to insure minimal interference. Thanks W7BUN.

Westlink Report, September 24, 1982

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The UOSAT has been restored to normal operation. Amateurs at Stanford Research Institute in Palo Alto, California, were successful in using their 60 foot dish antenna to turn off OSCAR 9's 2 meter and 70 cm transmitters, thereby normalizing the satellite. The problem had occurred in April when both transmitters were activated simultaneously, thus desensing both the command receivers so that no normal command station could be heard. Several exceptional transmitting stations were tried before this last ditch attempt was successful.

Westlink Report, October 8, 198.